

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 2, 2008. Claims 7 to 18 remain pending in the application, of which Claims 7, 11 and 15 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 7 to 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Publication No. 2004/0203698 (Comp). The rejections are respectfully traversed and the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in light of the following comments.

The present invention determines whether a communication apparatus and a controlled device are connected to via a predetermined transmission medium. In the invention, the communication apparatus first detects the controlled device from among a plurality of devices connected via a network and obtains an IP address for the controlled device. The communication apparatus then transmits a request for inquiring whether the controlled device having an obtained IP address is connected to the predetermined transmission medium, where the communication apparatus is directly connected to the predetermined transmission medium, and the request is transmitted via the predetermined transmission medium. If a response corresponding to the request is received from the controlled device, then the communication apparatus determines that the controlled device and the communication apparatus are connected via the predetermined transmission medium. On the other hand, if no response to the request is received from the controlled device, then the communication apparatus determines that the controlled device and the communication apparatus are connected via a transmission medium different from the

predetermined transmission medium. In this latter case, warning information is displayed on a display unit.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 7 is directed to a communication apparatus capable of connecting to a network including a plurality of transmission media and capable of controlling a controlled device having a predetermined function, comprising a device detecting unit that (a) detects the controlled device among a plurality of devices connected to the network, and (b) obtains an IP address of the controlled device, a communication unit that transmits a request for inquiring whether the controlled device having the obtained IP address is connected to a predetermined transmission medium, the communication apparatus being directly connected to the predetermined transmission medium, the request being transmitted via the predetermined transmission medium, and a determining unit that (a) determines that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are connected via the predetermined transmission medium, if a response corresponding to the request is received from the controlled device, and (b) determines that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are connected via a transmission medium different from the predetermined transmission medium, if no response to the request is received from the controlled device, wherein the communication apparatus displays warning information if the determining unit determines that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are connected via the transmission medium different from the predetermined transmission medium.

Claims 11 and 15 are method and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 7.

The applied art of Comp is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 7, 11 and 15, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of a communication apparatus i) detecting a controlled device among a plurality of devices connected to the network, and obtaining an IP address of the controlled device, ii) determining that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are connected via a predetermined transmission medium, if a response corresponding to a request, transmitted via the predetermined communication medium, is received from the controlled device, and determining that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are connected via a transmission medium different from the predetermined transmission medium, if no response to the request is received from the controlled device, wherein the communication apparatus displays warning information if it is determined that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are connected via the transmission medium different from the predetermined transmission medium.

Comp is merely seen to disclose a system that includes an access point 30 of a wired LAN 40 and a plurality of user devices 16, 18 and 20, each connected to the access point via wireless LAN. In this system, a connection state of the wireless LAN of each user device is monitored to detect disconnection, with the possibility of generating a warning. However, Comp is not seen to teach the features of the invention, and in particular, is not seen to teach the features of a communication apparatus i) detecting a controlled device among a plurality of devices connected to the network, and obtaining an IP address of the controlled device, ii) determining that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are connected via a predetermined transmission medium, if a response corresponding to a request, transmitted via the predetermined communication

medium, is received from the controlled device, and determining that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are connected via a transmission medium different from the predetermined transmission medium, if no response to the request is received from the controlled device, wherein the communication apparatus displays warning information if it is determined that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are connected via the transmission medium different from the predetermined transmission medium.

In this regard, the Office Action states at page 3 and 4 that, at paragraph 21 of Comp, “when the signal strength falls below certain threshold, this would indicate that the connection may have been lost. This implies at least in part that they are not connected via the same transmission medium.” The Office Action apparently is equating the loss of signal with the claimed feature of determining that the controlled device and the communication apparatus are connected via a transmission medium different from the predetermined transmission medium. However, the Office Action clearly admits that the implication is that the “signal was lost”, meaning there is no connection at all. No connection at all simply cannot be equated with determining that the two device “are connected via a transmission medium different from the predetermined transmission medium” since there is no connection via any transmission medium. Therefore, the Office Action’s reliance on the cited portion of Comp is misplaced.

In view of the foregoing deficiencies of Comp, amended independent Claims 7, 11 and 15, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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